

Dear Members of Labor and Public Employees Committee of the Connecticut General Assembly:

My name is Nardia Grant and I live in Hartford, Connecticut. I support Senate Bill No. 1178: *An Act Expanding Connecticut Paid Sick Days*.

I have been advocating and working with my community for many years. I carry their stories and mine. This is how I know that we all need access to paid sick days, regardless of employer size. Access to paid sick time would not only benefit my loved ones but my community as well. This shouldn't have to be a luxury for some but instead a human right. We shouldn't have to wait to utilize sick time and everyone having access in CT no matter the employer should be customary. The luxury to care for me as I build back my strength and heal in any way should be essential.

Expansion of Paid sick leave policies not only improves public health outcomes but also supports workers dealing with medical emergencies. Therefore, without paid sick time expansion we don't feel at ease taking time off as it puts pressure on our finances, where we cannot afford to forgo pay or risk losing our jobs.

In addition, lack of sick time or none jeopardizes our family's monthly food budget, payments for bills, car, insurance medical, etc. Just increase stress levels all around which doesn't make a great family setting stressing & falling apart if you have a family to support. As a single mom and head of household, I speak strongly in support of paid sick time expansion, I would appreciate having 80 hrs vs 40 hours. Parents need time to care for their illnesses and then for their children. I am a devoted mother who wants to be there for my child in her time of need. Please don't get in the way of me caring for my child!

This is why I support Senate Bill 1178: *AN ACT EXPANDING CONNECTICUT PAID SICK DAYS* and need a paid sick days law that:

1. Cover all workers regardless of employer size or industry!
2. Eliminates the waiting period to take a paid sick days!
3. Include all types of family structures and relationships which will allow workers to care for a child of any age, as well as their chosen family! The bill would also allow you to take paid sick time to care for a family member who experiences family violence or sexual assault.
4. Increase the number of hours of paid sick time workers can accrue and use per year from 40 to 80 hours.
5. Protect against future pandemics by allowing paid sick time to be used when a worker's place of work or child's school/place of care is closed by public officials for a public health emergency!

Thank you for your time,  
Nardia Grant Hartford, CT